

SOUTHWEST PARK: PARK MASTER PLAN

Meeting Record

Public Involvement Meeting #2: Presentation – June 7 2011

Purpose

Public Involvement Meeting #2 for the new Southwest Park Master Plan on June 7, 2011 summarized the work completed so far for the new park project in Tierra Contenta and presented to the public three preliminary options for the park program, design, and layout. The presentation covered the history of the park project and its site, the existing conditions analysis of the site, and the park program.

The second SW Park public involvement meeting was held so the planning team could receive public input on preferred locations of park elements (access, turf field, court sports, skate park, community gathering space). The project team presented three distinct alternatives with elements in different locations to get input from the public on preferences in order to develop the final park plan.

Meeting Attendance and Summary

The second public involvement meeting for SW Park Master Plan (Southwest Activity Node Park) was held at the Santa Fe Southside Library, at 6599 Jaguar Drive, in the Community Room, on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 between 5:30 and 7:30 pm. There were 71 names on the sign-in sheet, with an estimate of 80 people overall in attendance.

The meeting was organized as a presentation (ca. 40 minutes), question and answer session (ca. 55 minutes), and an open house for the remainder of the meeting time. A Spanish translator was available for Spanish speakers during the meeting.

The meeting began with an introduction by Mary MacDonald, who briefly introduced the members of the planning team and city staff present. Mrs. MacDonald then introduced Claudia Horn to begin the presentation. Mrs. Horn reviewed the work completed so far by the project team, which included the existing conditions and site analysis work as well as the park program development. Mrs. Horn told the public the several components and factors that went into the development of the final park program, which was submitted to the City May 10. The elements that aided the planning team in recommending a park program were: (1) City Resolution No. 2009-86, (2) the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission's Organized Sports Leagues - needs assessment, (3) the SW Park planning team's regional park inventory and online survey, and (4) the comments and feedback received from the SW Park's first public involvement meeting, held May 3.

Mrs. Horn then presented the three alternative park design schemes, discussing each major element of the park: multi-purpose artificial turf fields, multi-purpose natural turf fields, lawn and gathering/performance space, court sports, playgrounds, and skate park. Below are the descriptions of the three alternatives, which were given to the public in a handout format (see attached handout).

Alternative A

Alternative A proposes a two-point access road through the northern part of the park site, connecting to both Paseo del Sol West and Plaza Central. The park program elements are focused on the northern half of the site along both sides of the road, leaving areas south of the arroyo as 'natural' open space. The park road provides access to the northeastern areas of the site and offers a large hillside playground and a hilltop overlook area.

- *linear scheme with park access from both western and eastern edges of site (Plaza Central + Paseo del Sol West)*
- *park program elements organized along through-road on the northern half of the site*
- *'natural' open space south of arroyo*

Alternative B

This alternative proposes a compact organization of program with focused nodes of activity and parking nearby. The multi-purpose, artificial turf field complex is sited at the entry to the park with an integrated plaza / promenade and areas for playgrounds, water play, court sports, and a linear skate park. Beyond the concentrated area of development, the outlying regions of the site provide areas for natural trails and open space recreation.

- *compact scheme with parking organized near activity points*
- *lawn / community gathering area in open space south of arroyo bordered by native landscaping*
- *trails within hillsides and buffer areas*

Alternative C

In this alternative, the park road runs along the base of the hills north of the arroyo and terminates at the multi-purpose, artificial field complex. Park program elements are located in all areas of the site. The artificial field complex at the southeastern end of the site includes: a concession stand and restroom facility, a maintenance building, a playground, and a skate plaza. Court sport activities and picnic areas are located on the southern side of the arroyo, surrounded by native landscaping and open space areas.

- road follows the arroyo to the southeastern corner of the site*
- park program elements are distributed in all areas of the site*
- lawn / community gathering area located centrally along boulevard*

The public was given a preference survey and asked to answer questions that would help lead the planning team towards a preferred, final alternative. The public was informed that the planning team was more interested in their preferences regarding the routes of the park access road and the locations of the various park program elements within each park design scheme, rather than an overall preference for one alternative over another. The questionnaire provided an open comment section.

The five questions asked in the questionnaire were:

In which alternative do you prefer the following elements / features:

- a. the location of the artificial turf fields?
- b. the access and parking layout?
- c. the location of the court sports
- d. the location / type of skate park
- e. the location of the gathering / performance area?

There was also a comment box for the public to write down their comments or suggestions about the park design.

Public Comments Summary

A total of 51 people filled out the preference survey. A majority of the respondents favored Alternative A's access scheme, which proposed 2-points of access. The remainder of respondents were divided on the other two access schemes. For the second question, the respondents were almost evenly divided on their preference of the location of the artificial turf fields (options either in the southeast or the northwest corner). The respondents were also almost evenly divided on their preference of the court sports location. However, a few more respondents did prefer their location in Alternative B (south of the access road, north of the arroyo) over the other two alternatives (north of the access road, north of the arroyo AND south of the arroyo). More respondents preferred the skate park's location and type in Alternative C, which located it near the lighted, artificial turf fields and the parking lot in the southeast corner of the site; the other alternatives received an even number of votes (northwest corner AND central, near court sports). The most preferred location of the gathering / performance lawn was in Alternative B (south of the arroyo), although the other alternatives were not significantly less preferred (center, within hill AND south of road, north of arroyo).

Some of the primary issues outlined by those who gave open comments were:

- the concern to have lighted fields and major park activity located with the least impact to existing residences.
- the concern over the size of the skate park (too small in all alternatives)
- the need for safety and security within the park (through lighting, police patrols, a 2-pt park access road)
- the need for proximate vehicular access to fields (for league equipment, emergency, and maintenance access)

Meeting Advertisement

The meeting was advertised in the following manner:

Three weeks in advance:

Public Signs: at **Jaguar Drive & Paseo del Sol West** and **Paseo del Sol West & Plaza Central** and entrance to **Mutt Nelson Road**

Mailed Flyers: to **churches, mobile home parks, and senior housing** (within Airport Road vicinity)

Two weeks in advance:

Email: to **public meeting #1 attendees, online survey respondents, organized sports leagues and groups, neighborhood agencies**

Webpage: on **City of Santa Fe website**: <http://www.santafenm.gov/index.aspx?nid=2445>

Flyers: at **Southside Library, Fire Station #8, Girls, Inc., Miklos Coffee Shop, YMCA, Crisis Center**

Comments + Suggestions – from the Public

The following are verbatim comments / suggestions from the public. These comments were collected in the following manner:

- Question & Answer Session Record
- Responses from Preference Survey
- Preference Survey Results

Please note: The public meeting attendees and survey respondents gave their input across all mediums within the survey and the meeting outlets. Therefore, there may be multiple comments from the same individual(s).

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION RECORD (FROM PUBLIC MEETING: JUNE 7, 2011)

During the presentation a member of the audience asked Claudia to clarify where the parking lot for the artificial turf fields were in Alternative A. He expressed a concern that the parking was not immediately adjacent to the fields. This issue was brought up again later in the meeting.

Another individual asked where there would be night lighting and would there be lighting at the skate park in particular.

Claudia responded that there would be stadium lighting for the sports fields at night and the other areas of the park would have 20 ft light poles as needed for safety and security at night.

Claudia then asked that all questions be reserved until the end of the presentation...

Q1: To me the value of this site is the natural beauty...the upper right quad is the most beautiful part, you as an environmentalist...the natural beauty is not being retained in this area, you are pulling out all the natural junipers...I think it is the most beautiful in the upper right quadrant. Can't believe you are going in there and tearing down the junipers...He indicated that he prefers Alternative C, which impacts this area the least.

A1: Claudia acknowledged his comment.

Q2: Could you point out where the existing asphalt path is? There is the dirt road that crosses the arroyo, where is that?

A2: Claudia pointed out the items on the site map.

Q3: In Alternative A there are two ways in and out? Is that correct?

A3: Claudia said that yes there were two entrance/exits in Alternative A.

Q4: Could you clarify the 100 ft vertical range you spoke about in the presentation, what do you mean by that? Are the houses within the park?

A4: Claudia clarified that the site elevation changes about 100 ft from the highest point on the bluffs, to the lowest point at the bottom of the arroyo. And the houses are not within the park.

Q5: Do any of the plans have more than one area with restroom facilities? Are you still taking input into additional activities?

A5: Fabian Chavez responded that the most costly thing for the city to maintain is a bathroom; from a security and vandalism perspective...and that there would likely be only one restroom facility at the park.

I like the idea of having playgrounds spread out for the children, but I think we will need more restrooms.

Q6: What is the timeline for this to get done? Are any other smaller steps being considered? We need recreational areas...we have 40% of the kids living here (southside) and we need this soon.

A6: Councilor Dominguez responded that the city is moving forward with seeking out revenue sources for the park.

Can we get a basketball court before we get this park?

Councilor: We are looking at city facilities and seeing how we can best use them.

Q7: As an advocate for organized youth sports...from a practical standpoint, Alternatives A and B, would leave out access from parking and are not practical for team equipment and medical emergency access. We would prefer Alternative C for the direct parking access to the athletic fields...in the case of injuries you need emergency access quickly.

A7: Comment noted by Claudia.

Q8: We were talking about different design elements, in the last meeting we spent a lot of time with little dots...was that meeting a waste of time...are we helping here or are we just here so that you can say you got public involvement.

A8: Claudia explained the public process and how ideas and program elements evolved through public input and acknowledged his concern.

Q9: You mentioned bike and hiking trails, where are they?

A9: Claudia pointed out the network of trails that connect to the different neighborhoods.

Q10: Joyce Montoya, Pickle Ball Enthusiast: 1,600 People in ABQ are playing this game...is it possible to have courts adjacent to tennis courts, or we could play on tennis courts, we want to make sure that there is space for pickle ball.

A10: Claudia responded that indeed the design intent was to have multi-use fields and courts and that the design is open to include space requirements for pickle ball, and she thanked her for her comments.

Q11: I am wondering how you arrived at your field numbers and types, we need more soccer fields and not so many baseball fields...natural turf or artificial.

A11: Claudia acknowledged her comment.

Q12: Is there a prairie dog population in this area?

A12: Fabian said that he has not seen any Gunnison prairie dogs...before we do anything we will go in and do an inventory just as with any other building project.

Q13: I can't believe that you haven't done any environmental studies...what a waste!

A13: Fabian requested that all comments be respectful and productive.

Q14: Real quick on the horseshoe court thing doesn't make any sense...you bring your own horseshoes...but someone would run off with them.

A14: Claudia responded that individuals are responsible for bringing their own horseshoes to the pit.

Q15: Is there an estimate cost for this park?

A15: Claudia answered that a general rule of thumb for active recreational parks is \$250,000 an acre but that is a very rough and general estimate.

Q16: Wondering where is the largest population areas? It seems that it is odd that you have to access through 599...can there be a linear access across the park and then access to the large field.

A16: Claudia explained that because of the topography along the northern edge of the park, vehicular access is not recommended but that there are a number of foot and bike paths that connect to the densely populated neighborhoods just north of the park.

Q17: What is the difference in the size of the skate parks in the 3 plans?

A17: Claudia said that they were approximately the same size, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre, but that they are configured differently, some more linear, others more compact.

Q18: In reference to Q16 (above) someone commented on the road access, you can access the park through many different foot and bike points from the north.

Q19: Skate board representative: Regarding the sq ft of the skate parks, that sq footage is very important...skate boarding is the fastest growing sport for kids...there is more impact with the sq ft with a skate park for the number of kids who will use the feature than say a baseball field...yet the skate park looks tiny compared to the other facilities. I am concerned about the size of the skate parks, too small can be dangerous for skaters.

A19: Claudia acknowledged his concern.

Q20: Senior horse shoe coordinator for Santa Fe, 14 courts...would be good...it is important to me that the recommendations for the national horseshoe association would be involved in the design and that the size would accommodate city wide needs for horseshoe courts.

A20: Claudia acknowledged this concern.

Q21: I want to make sure that the disc golf area is regulation so that a tournament could come to the park.

A21: Claudia acknowledged her concern.

Q22 Baseball guy: Alternative A includes 2 baseball fields...and we all want a piece of the park. Are there plans for other smaller areas...Practice also needs to be considered in small areas...We need more than what is being proposed...One field is not enough for an organized program baseball.

A22: Claudia acknowledged this concern.

Q23: In four years of walking in the arroyo I have never seen a prairie dog.

Is there space for volleyball in this? Could it be part of the program? Maybe included in the natural turf areas?

A23: Claudia acknowledged this comment on volleyball fields in natural turf areas.

Q24: Do you go over the plans with the police? Comment is that on Alternative B and C there is only one access in...parking areas that dead end are of concern to me. Prefer option A, which has two entrances and exists, and no dead ends.

A24: Claudia acknowledged this comment and affirmed that the police are involved in the process.

Q25: Comment on horseshoes...we lack a place to throw horseshoes. I practice for senior Olympics...I invite everyone to join Senior Olympics...We need horseshoes...it's a lifetime sport...there is nowhere to play in Santa Fe...you should see the facilities in Las Cruces...it's the kind of thing we need to promote.

A25: Claudia acknowledged his comment.

Q26: Skate boarding and BMX are lifetime sports too, and we want to speak out and support them as well.

A26: Claudia acknowledged his comment.

Q27: Are there plans to secure this place after hours?

A27: Fabian responded that there would be locked gates that the police and fire would have combinations to and that it would be secured from vehicular traffic after hours.

Q28 What about storage?

A28: Fabian responded that there would be no onsite storage for individual teams sports. Teams and groups would have to bring in their equipment.

Closing Comments

Dave Thomas, Project Engineer for Tierra Contenta: I am very excited about this project, after a long time we are getting to it...thank the young people who came hear and voiced their opinion...this is a homerun.

Councilor: Thank everyone for coming...the project is a step in the right direction...the information was not created in a vacuum...this is everyone's community.

Claudia: Thank you for coming and for your comments, we will have an open house, please feel free to stay.

RESPONSES FROM PREFERENCE SURVEY AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (FROM PUBLIC MEETING: JUNE 7, 2011)

The five questions asked in the questionnaire were:

In which alternative do you prefer the following elements / features:

- a. the location of the artificial turf fields?
- b. the access and parking layout?
- c. the location of the court sports
- d. the location / type of skate park
- e. the location of the gathering / performance area?

I think its time for the City of Santa Fe to help promote a nicer skate park in this facility. In every other park or recreation areas in Santa Fe, people can count on the city to keep up with maintenance. The skate park that already exists, and other BMX skate areas are usually neglected compared to other sport facilities. The skate park needs to be able to count on the city to keep it up, just like every other sport field. Let's make a nice skate park! more effort into the skate park!

I would like a state of the art skate park in SF. Full pipe / wall ride / skate plaza / lights / shade structures. Thank you.

b: Maximize field space for youth soccer. Comment: Please make as much space for soccer fields. 1 lighted soccer field. Use wind turbines for electrical generation.

a: prefer smaller lots in more areas... greener / cooler. b: Where ever the natural landscape is less beautiful. d: Larger is safer! e: slope grass seating area similar to Railyard park for movies and performances in the park. Comments: EMS access necessary! Especially by skate park and sport field. Let's get community walking by limiting the drive up access - may need wide sturdy secure paths that carts can drive onto to transport equipment etc. Find funding for programming the recreation at the park - have storage for multi-purpose equipment. May need City staff for event production and possibly for sports equipment loans - to check out and return. Feel very curious about Jr. Ranger program or outdoor art in the park - consider asking Audobon to creation a south side branch for environmental education.

Horseshoe pits the size of Las Cruces Meerscheidt Center Horseshoe Park, and when the specifics of the SW Regional Park Horseshoe area are being planning that the planner will consult with the National Horseshoe Pitching Association and a professional horseshoe competition in Santa Fe.

a: In ABQ there are parks where you must walk much further than 400 ft. (CNM parks, Johnson field); d: Don't confuse skate plaza and plaza. We don't want people in the plaza to make it safer for us and them. Comments: These layouts look great and thank you for the consideration of skate parks. It would be great if you could get a designer built SP plus lights and more square footage.

d: skate park lights, built by skate park designers.

a: Alt A looks good for access but poor for skate plaza and access to organized fields. * more access options. c: What is total square footage for each design alternative for skate plaza. Linear sounds interesting but skateboarding growth and need for space - worst injuries caused by lack of space. How did skate plaza shrink from last meeting?? It had the most "votes". 3/4 acre minimum for skate plaza. e: Again look at size and usage. Skate park usage huge vs. open space gathering. Need space for safety. Comments: skateboard plaza / parks must use designer built plans and built-in. The city is currently working with ASD to fix poor built older park. Skate park night lighting - should be equal to field lighting as far as hours (not stadium). Look at ABQ skate park lighting at night for example!! Thank you!!

a: The more entrances and parking spaces, the better. d: The skate park should be kept in one large, central place. Comments: the skate park needs to be large to promote safety and ease of use. Save the prairie dogs.

a: I think it is important to have more than one entry from a safety perspective. b: maximize space for soccer fields - 3 or more (regulation fields that can also be striped for youth fields). Comments: possibly add lights (or wiring for the future) to the natural turf fields. the key is to have enough regulation fields to encourage youth / adult soccer and draw tournaments (and money) to the city.

b: keep lighted field farthest away from Jaguar. Comments: keep the restroom centrally located, or have two restrooms. Increase picnic areas and spread around. Could you delineate hiking trails better! After hours security will be impossible without a fence around the park. There are dozens of entry points by foot! please add volleyball access. Thank you!!

d: make bigger.

Emergency vehicle access to turf fields, court sports, skate park. Bigger skate park.

c: pickleball and tennis needs may conflict so 3 tennis courts and 5 pickleballs. There are other places to play tennis but nowhere in Santa Fe for outdoor pickleball. PLEASE counselor more courts. d: the largest one and near the park office. e: List all the activities, organized and other, that are desirable. Analyze which can be overlapped so areas can be multi-used. i.e. soccer, field events, volleyball, etc. Comments: additional road thru park. More park access for cars. Restroom centered in park. Community park quarters near skate plaza and restrooms. Need at least 5 pickleball courts.

Need parking located close to athletic fields, for emergency and equipment being moved in and out, kids being picked up and dropped off by parents.

Need access to parking for fields for field sports (lacrosse). Would be great to keep park in as much a natural state as possible *environmental study*

d: Alt C preferred bc the location is more open and is able to get light from the turf fields. Comments: I think the skate plaza should have a little more room with lights that can light the skate park. Design builders who know how to make skate plazas.

d: I think we should have a little more space. Comments: the skate park should have lights so we can skate at night then they will go off at a certain time.

a: one public entrance and no thru traffic. b: have parking close by with restrooms. d: provide the necessary area no matter where you put the park. Comments: Any stadium lighting be used only as necessary and have a time limit. Not past 10pm. Is noise abatement a consideration?

d: skate park has to be designer built instead of city built. With lights that shut off at a certain time at night. Comments: at least a acre for a skate park.

c: more space needed for skateboarding like the location. d: more space for skate park. Comments: really happy and grateful to be involved in some way. Looking forward to a newer nicer skate park - skate plaza. Would like to see the skate park lit... lights. size important - 1/3 acre?? no 3/4 acre minimum.

a: a long road dissects open space (A) - who wants a long road? b: B gets sports events in and out of the park quickly. c: C is too far from road / parking. Comments: mountain bike trails could be amongst the steep hillsides like dale ball trails. plan B and C is the best for disc golf. Plan A is just wrong because a road dividing the park takes away from the openness of an open space. Plan C - could swap the gathering grass with the courts.

a: I think Alt A is the best for emergency and safety. Just easier access to the baseball fields.

Note: PB nets are portable; can be played on tennis courts lines can be added to tennis courts. 2 PB courts on 1 tennis court. Senior Olympics: we are requesting pickleball courts at the new park. Pickle ball is a fast growing sport in NM as well as all across the country. We would like 6 permanent lined courts with a fence around them. the nets are portable and affordable. all you need are paddles. Our senior olympic group would like to make this sport available to all ages. families - teens - adults - and seniors. ABQ has 1600 people playing - SF has a small group of 20 and hoping to grow * not hard on body life timesport * all ages can play * fun.

c: enough horseshoe pits for tournament as well as individual use. Comments: we need some good horseshoe pits. Should there be an access road for both sides of the park in all of these alternatives?

c: need horse shoe area. Comments: in santa fe we deeply need a place for all ages, to enjoy throwing horseshoes. Especially for competition events, and socializing.

a: -with-road that can be closed off. Comments: Two accesses to the park is important.

e: Increase sizes of horseshoe + skate park. Comments: please add additional restroom facilities. One west and one east and one central. Control of "fugitive" light. We want to conserve our night sky! Increase size of skate park even if it means losing a field.

b: placing the fields @ Alt A/C would create congestion on the traffic ways. Comments: I prefer the B arrangement for the disc golf course. I would like to see the course be able to use any and all land not taken by other elements of the park.

a: It seems to me that there will be traffic congestion in plans B + C. Access is needed to and from the turf areas - plans A + C fields.n Comments: Convenience: need 2 restroom bldgs. Families + Seniors.

d: Alt C bc it is away from residents.

Please build a new nice skatepark for skating, roller-blading, and BMXing. Thank you. :)

Please build us a park! =)

Nite lights are an issue for me. The sky loses its viewability with improperly designed and too highly elevated, creating less stars to be seen, put it far away from housing. Parking near activities. Drink water access at all activities, esp. hot days.

If lighting is provided, strict hours to be kept. Must include emergency telephones and police patrols.

Make a big skate park. Our growing community needs a lot of space. Pump track is a yes!

Yes to the pump track, there is a large community of cyclists.

Will you please hire grindline, or dreamland park builders because they know what they are doing.

Bigger skatepark (ideally 1 acre); lighted; properly built; think about it: how many skaters - tons, baseball players - a few, baseball fields - tons, skateparks - 2 really bad ones.

b: not practical to carry equipment from parking to field; also for injury evacuation. Comments: Please maximize allocated area for athletic fields!

more space for skate park - acere's - light to

police patrols, strict hours of use, and noise consideration must be made for residents close to the parks. If lighting is used limited hours. Can the 100 ft distance from homes be increased to 200-300 ft?

more space for skate park.

END OF NOTES

The record herein is considered to be an accurate depiction of the discussion and/or decisions made during the meeting unless written clarification is received by **design office** within five (5) working days upon receipt of this meeting record.